

Senate Bill No. 1586

CHAPTER 311

An act to amend Sections 1268.350 and 1268.360 of the Code of Civil Procedure, to amend Section 8333 of the Streets and Highways Code, and to amend Sections 1808, 1808.1, 11101, 12517.3, 12811, and 24400 of, the Vehicle Code, relating to government.

[Approved by Governor September 18, 2006. Filed with
Secretary of State September 18, 2006.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1586, Lowenthal. Government: eminent domain and inverse condemnation: public service easements: vehicles.

(1) Existing law defines "apportionment rate" for the purposes of computing interest when awarding compensation in eminent domain and inverse condemnation proceedings.

This bill would revise the definition of "apportionment rate" for these purposes to require the computation to be based on a calendar quarter time period.

(2) Existing law authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to summarily vacate a public service easement, under specified circumstances.

This bill would expand those circumstances to include when the easement has been determined to be excess by the easement holder.

(3) Existing law requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to make available to the public, under certain circumstances, abstracts of convictions and accident reports required to be sent to the department in Sacramento, for 7 years where a violation is designated as 2 points, as specified, and for 3 years for accidents and all other violations.

This bill would extend the time that the department is required to make available to the public the abstracts of convictions, under specified sections prohibiting operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or both, from 7 to 10 years.

(4) Existing law imposes on the employer of a driver who drives one of several specified vehicles, including a vehicle for the operation of which the driver is required to have a schoolbus or school pupil activity bus certificate, as specified, several requirements related to the driver's public record. A violation of those requirements is a crime.

This bill would delete from that list of vehicles an erroneous cross-reference, and include in that list of vehicles a vehicle for the operation of which the driver is required to have an ambulance driver's certificate, as specified. By changing the definition of a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(5) Existing law generally requires an applicant for an original certificate to drive a schoolbus, school pupil activity bus, youth bus, or general public paratransit vehicle, as defined, to be fingerprinted by the Department of the California Highway Patrol, as specified, and those fingerprints to be processed as specified.

This bill would authorize the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol to utilize the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System to conduct a preliminary criminal and driver history check to determine an applicant's eligibility to hold an original or renewal certificate to drive a schoolbus, school pupil activity bus, youth bus, or general public paratransit vehicle.

(6) Existing law requires that an application for a driver's license or identification card contain a space for an applicant, age 16 years or older, to give his or her consent to be an organ or tissue donor upon death.

This bill would delete the requirement that the applicant be age 16 years or older to give his or her consent to be an organ or tissue donor.

(7) Existing law requires, with limited exceptions, that, during darkness and inclement weather, a motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, be equipped with at least 2, specifically located, lighted headlamps.

This bill would clarify and recast this offense to make clear that it applies when the vehicle is being operated in the dark or in inclement weather, or both.

(8) This bill would make other technical changes to the Vehicle Code.

(9) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1268.350 of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to read:

1268.350. (a) As used in this section, "apportionment rate" means the apportionment rate calculated by the Controller as the rate of earnings by the Surplus Money Investment Fund for each calendar quarter.

(b) The rate of interest payable under this article for each calendar quarter, or fraction thereof, for which interest is due, shall be the apportionment rate for the immediately preceding calendar quarter.

(c) Each district office of the Department of Transportation shall quote the apportionment rate to any person upon request.

SEC. 2. Section 1268.360 of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to read:

1268.360. The interest payable for each calendar quarter shall draw interest, computed as prescribed by Section 1268.350, in each succeeding calendar quarter for which interest is due.

SEC. 3. Section 8333 of the Streets and Highways Code is amended to read:

8333. The legislative body of a local agency may summarily vacate a public service easement in any of the following cases:

(a) The easement has not been used for the purpose for which it was dedicated or acquired for five consecutive years immediately preceding the proposed vacation.

(b) The date of dedication or acquisition is less than five years, and more than one year, immediately preceding the proposed vacation, and the easement was not used continuously since that date.

(c) The easement has been superseded by relocation, or determined to be excess by the easement holder, and there are no other public facilities located within the easement.

SEC. 4. Section 1808 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

1808. (a) Except where a specific provision of law prohibits the disclosure of records or information or provides for confidentiality, all records of the department relating to the registration of vehicles, other information contained on an application for a driver's license, abstracts of convictions, and abstracts of accident reports required to be sent to the department in Sacramento, except for abstracts of accidents where, in the opinion of a reporting officer, another individual was at fault, shall be open to public inspection during office hours. All abstracts of accident reports shall be available to law enforcement agencies and courts of competent jurisdiction.

(b) The department shall make available or disclose abstracts of convictions and abstracts of accident reports required to be sent to the department in Sacramento, as described in subdivision (a), if the date of the occurrence is not later than the following:

(1) Ten years for a violation pursuant to Section 23140, 23152, or 23153.

(2) Seven years for a violation designated as two points pursuant to Section 12810, except as provided in paragraph (1) of this subdivision.

(3) Three years for accidents and all other violations.

(c) The department shall make available or disclose suspensions and revocations of the driving privilege while the suspension or revocation is in effect and for three years following termination of the action or reinstatement of the privilege, except that driver's license suspension actions taken pursuant to Sections 13202.6 and 13202.7, or Section 256 or 11350.6 of the Welfare and Institutions Code shall be disclosed only during the actual time period in which the suspension is in effect.

(d) The department shall not make available or disclose a suspension or revocation that has been judicially set aside or stayed.

(e) The department shall not make available or disclose personal information about a person unless the disclosure is in compliance with the Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994 (18 U.S.C. Sec. 2721 et seq.). However, a disclosure is subject to the prohibition in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 12800.5.

(f) The department shall make available or disclose to the courts and law enforcement agencies a conviction of Section 23103, as specified in Section 23103.5, or a conviction of Section 23140, 23152, or 23153, or Section 655 of the Harbors and Navigation Code, or paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of Section 192 of the Penal Code for a period of 10 years from the date of the offense for the purpose of imposing penalties mandated by this code, or by other applicable provisions of California law.

(g) The department shall make available or disclose to the courts and law enforcement agencies a conviction of Section 191.5, or paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 192 of the Penal Code, punished as a felony, for the purpose of imposing penalties mandated by Section 23550.5, or by other applicable provisions of California law.

SEC. 5. Section 1808.1 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

1808.1. (a) The prospective employer of a driver who drives a vehicle specified in subdivision (k) shall obtain a report showing the driver's current public record as recorded by the department. For purposes of this subdivision, a report is current if it was issued less than 30 days prior to the date the employer employs the driver. The report shall be reviewed, signed, and dated by the employer and maintained at the employer's place of business until receipt of the pull-notice system report pursuant to subdivisions (b) and (c). These reports shall be presented upon request to an authorized representative of the Department of the California Highway Patrol during regular business hours.

(b) The employer of a driver who drives a vehicle specified in subdivision (k) shall participate in a pull-notice system, which is a process for the purpose of providing the employer with a report showing the driver's current public record as recorded by the department, and any subsequent convictions, failures to appear, accidents, driver's license suspensions, driver's license revocations, or any other actions taken against the driving privilege or certificate, added to the driver's record while the employer's notification request remains valid and uncanceled. As used in this section, participation in the pull-notice system means obtaining a requester code and enrolling all employed drivers who drive a vehicle specified in subdivision (k) under that requester code.

(c) The employer of a driver of a vehicle specified in subdivision (k) shall, additionally, obtain a periodic report from the department at least every 12 months. The employer shall verify that each employee's driver's license has not been suspended or revoked, the employee's traffic violation point count, and whether the employee has been convicted of a violation of Section 23152 or 23153. The report shall be signed and dated by the employer and maintained at the employer's principal place of business. The report shall be presented upon demand to an authorized representative of the Department of the California Highway Patrol during regular business hours.

(d) Upon the termination of a driver's employment, the employer shall notify the department to discontinue the driver's enrollment in the pull-notice system.

(e) For the purposes of the pull-notice system and periodic report process required by subdivisions (b) and (c), an owner, other than an owner-operator as defined in Section 34624, and an employer who drives a vehicle described in subdivision (k) shall be enrolled as if he or she were an employee. A family member and a volunteer driver who drives a vehicle described in subdivision (k) shall also be enrolled as if he or she were an employee.

(f) An employer who, after receiving a driving record pursuant to this section, employs or continues to employ as a driver a person against whom a disqualifying action has been taken regarding his or her driving privilege or required driver's certificate, is guilty of a public offense, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by confinement in a county jail for not more than six months, by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by both that confinement and fine.

(g) As part of its inspection of bus maintenance facilities and terminals required at least once every 13 months pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 34501, the Department of the California Highway Patrol shall determine whether each transit operator, as defined in Section 99210 of the Public Utilities Code, is then in compliance with this section and Section 12804.6, and shall certify each operator found to be in compliance. Funds shall not be allocated pursuant to Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 99200) of Part 11 of Division 10 of the Public Utilities Code to a transit operator that the Department of the California Highway Patrol has not certified pursuant to this section.

(h) A request to participate in the pull-notice system established by this section shall be accompanied by a fee determined by the department to be sufficient to defray the entire actual cost to the department for the notification service. For the receipt of subsequent reports, the employer shall also be charged a fee established by the department pursuant to Section 1811. An employer who qualifies pursuant to Section 1812 shall be exempt from any fee required pursuant to this section. Failure to pay the fee shall result in automatic cancellation of the employer's participation in the notification services.

(i) The department, as soon as feasible, may establish an automatic procedure to provide the periodic reports to an employer by mail or via an electronic delivery method, as required by subdivision (c), on a regular basis without the need for individual requests.

(j) (1) The employer of a driver who is employed as a casual driver is not required to enter that driver's name in the pull-notice system, as otherwise required by subdivision (a). However, the employer of a casual driver shall be in possession of a report of the driver's current public record as recorded by the department, prior to allowing a casual driver to drive a vehicle specified in subdivision (k). A report is current if it was issued less than six months prior to the date the employer employs the driver.

(2) For the purposes of this subdivision, a driver is employed as a casual driver when the employer has employed the driver less than 30 days

during the preceding six months. “Casual driver” does not include a driver who operates a vehicle that requires a passenger transportation endorsement.

(k) This section applies to a vehicle for the operation of which the driver is required to have a class A or class B driver’s license, a class C license with a hazardous materials endorsement, a class C license issued pursuant to Section 12814.7, or a certificate issued pursuant to Section 2512, 12517, 12519, 12520, 12523, or 12523.5, or a passenger vehicle having a seating capacity of not more than 10 persons, including the driver, operated for compensation by a charter-party carrier of passengers or passenger stage corporation pursuant to a certificate of public convenience and necessity or a permit issued by the Public Utilities Commission.

(l) This section shall not be construed to change the definition of “employer,” “employee,” or “independent contractor” for any purpose.

(m) A motor carrier who contracts with a person to drive a vehicle described in subdivision (k) that is owned by, or leased to, that motor carrier, shall be subject to subdivisions (a), (b), (c), (d), (f), (j), (k), and (l) and the employer obligations in those subdivisions.

SEC. 6. Section 11101 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

11101. (a) This chapter does not apply to any of the following:

(1) Public schools or educational institutions in which driving instruction is part of the curriculum.

(2) Nonprofit public service organizations offering instruction without a tuition fee.

(3) Nonprofit organizations engaged exclusively in giving off-the-highway instruction in the operation of motorcycles, if the course of instruction is approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and is not designed to prepare students for examination by the department for an M1 or M2 drivers license or endorsement.

(4) Commercial schools giving only off-the-highway instruction in the operation of special construction equipment, as defined in this code.

(5) Vehicle dealers or their salesmen giving instruction without charge to purchasers of motor vehicles.

(6) Employers giving instruction to their employees.

(7) Commercial schools engaged exclusively in giving off-the-highway instruction in the operation of racing vehicles or in advanced driving skills to persons holding valid drivers’ licenses, except whenever that instruction is given to persons who are being prepared for examination by the department for any class of driver’s license.

(b) For purposes of this section, “racing vehicle” means a motor vehicle of a type that is used exclusively in a contest of speed and that is not intended for use on the highways.

(c) (1) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to direct or restrict courses of instruction in driver education offered by private secondary schools or to require the use of credentialed or certified instructors in driver education courses offered by private secondary schools.

(2) For the purposes of this section, private secondary schools are those subject to Sections 33190 and 48222 of the Education Code.

SEC. 7. Section 12517.3 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

12517.3. (a) (1) An applicant for an original certificate to drive a schoolbus, school pupil activity bus, youth bus, or general public paratransit vehicle shall be fingerprinted by the Department of the California Highway Patrol, on a form provided or approved by the Department of the California Highway Patrol for submission to the Department of Justice, utilizing the Applicant Expedite Service or an electronic fingerprinting system.

(2) An applicant fingerprint form shall be processed and returned to the office of the Department of the California Highway Patrol from which it originated not later than 15 working days from the date on which the fingerprint form was received by the Department of Justice, unless circumstances, other than the administrative duties of the Department of Justice, warrant further investigation.

(3) Applicant fingerprints that are submitted by utilizing an electronic fingerprinting system shall be processed and returned to the appropriate office of the Department of the California Highway Patrol within three working days.

(4) The commissioner may utilize the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System to conduct a preliminary criminal and driver history check to determine an applicant's eligibility to hold an original or renewal certificate to drive a schoolbus, school pupil activity bus, youth bus, or general public paratransit vehicle.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), an applicant for an original certificate to drive a schoolbus, school pupil activity bus, youth bus, or general public paratransit vehicle may be fingerprinted by a public law enforcement agency, a school district, or a county office of education utilizing an electronic fingerprinting system with terminals managed by the Department of Justice.

(2) The Department of Justice shall provide the fingerprint information processed pursuant to this subdivision to the appropriate office of the Department of the California Highway Patrol within three working days of receipt of the information.

(3) An applicant for an original certificate to drive an ambulance shall submit a completed fingerprint card to the department.

SEC. 8. Section 12811 of the Vehicle Code, as amended by Section 1 of Chapter 665 of the Statutes of 2005, is amended to read:

12811. (a) (1) (A) When the department determines that the applicant is lawfully entitled to a license, it shall issue to the person a driver's license as applied for. The license shall state the class of license for which the licensee has qualified and shall contain the distinguishing number assigned to the applicant, the date of expiration, the true full name, age, and mailing address of the licensee, a brief description and engraved picture or photograph of the licensee for the purpose of identification, and space for the signature of the licensee.

(B) Each license shall also contain a space for the endorsement of a record of each suspension or revocation thereof.

(C) The department shall use whatever process or processes, in the issuance of engraved or colored licenses, that prohibit, as near as possible, the ability to alter or reproduce the license, or prohibit the ability to superimpose a picture or photograph on the license without ready detection.

(2) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (1), a license issued to a person under 18 years of age shall display the words “provisional until age 18.”

(b) (1) The front of an application for an original or renewal of a driver’s license or identification card shall contain a space for an applicant to give his or her consent to be an organ and tissue donor upon death. An applicant who gives consent shall be directed to read a statement on the back of the application that shall contain the following statement:

“If you marked on the front of the application that you want to be an organ and tissue donor upon death, your consent shall serve as a legally binding document as outlined under the California Uniform Anatomical Gift Act. Except in the case where the donor is under the age of 18, the donation does not require the consent of any other person. For donors under the age of 18, the legal guardian of the donor shall make the final decision regarding the donation. If you want to change your decision to consent in the future, or if you want to limit the donation to specific organs or tissues, you must contact Donate Life California by mail at 1760 Creekside Oaks Drive, #160, Sacramento, CA 95833, or through the World Wide Web at www.donateLIFecalifornia.org, or www.doneVIDAcalifornia.org.”

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person under age 18 may register as a donor. However, the legal guardian of that person shall make the final decision regarding the donation.

(3) The department shall collect donor designation information on all applications for an original or renewal driver’s license or identification card.

(4) The department shall print the word “DONOR” or another appropriate designation on the face of a driver’s license or identification card to a person who registered as a donor on a form issued pursuant to this section.

(5) On a weekly basis, the department shall electronically transmit to Donate Life California, a nonprofit organization established and designated as the California Organ and Tissue Donor Registrar pursuant to Section 7152.7 of the Health and Safety Code, all of the following information on every applicant that has indicated his or her willingness to participate in the organ donation program:

(A) His or her true full name.

(B) His or her residence or mailing address.

(C) His or her date of birth.

(D) His or her California driver's license number or identification card number.

(6) (A) A person who applies for an original or renewal driver's license or identification card may designate a voluntary contribution of two dollars (\$2) for the purpose of promoting and supporting organ and tissue donation. This contribution shall be collected by the department, and treated as a voluntary contribution to Donate Life California and not as a fee for the issuance of a driver's license or identification card.

(B) The department may use the donations collected pursuant to this paragraph to cover its actual administrative costs incurred pursuant to paragraphs (3) to (5), inclusive. The department shall deposit all revenue derived pursuant to this paragraph and remaining after the department's deduction for administrative costs in the Donate Life California Trust Subaccount, that is hereby created in the Motor Vehicle Account in the State Transportation Fund. Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, all revenue in this subaccount is continuously appropriated, without regard to fiscal years, to the Controller for allocation to Donate Life California and shall be expended for the purpose of increasing participation in organ donation programs.

(7) The enrollment form shall be posted on the Internet Web sites for the department and the California Health and Human Services Agency.

(8) The enrollment shall constitute a legal document pursuant to the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 7150) of Part 1 of Division 7 of the Health and Safety Code) and shall remain binding after the donor's death despite any express desires of next of kin opposed to the donation. Except as provided in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), the donation does not require the consent of any other person.

(9) Donate Life California shall ensure that all additions and deletions to the California Organ and Tissue Donor Registry, established pursuant to Section 7152.7 of the Health and Safety Code, shall occur within 30 days of receipt.

(10) Information obtained by Donate Life California for the purposes of this subdivision shall be used for these purposes only and shall not be disseminated further by Donate Life California.

(c) A public entity or employee shall not be liable for loss, detriment, or injury resulting directly or indirectly from false or inaccurate information contained in the form provided pursuant to subdivision (b).

(d) A contract shall not be awarded to a nongovernmental entity for the processing of driver's licenses, unless the contract conforms to all applicable state contracting laws and all applicable procedures set forth in the State Contracting Manual.

(e) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2006.

SEC. 9. Section 24400 of the Vehicle Code is amended to read:

24400. (a) A motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle, shall be:

(1) Equipped with at least two headlamps, with at least one on each side of the front of the vehicle, and, except as to vehicles registered prior to

January 1, 1930, they shall be located directly above or in advance of the front axle of the vehicle. The headlamps and every light source in any headlamp unit shall be located at a height of not more than 54 inches nor less than 22 inches.

(2) Operated during darkness, or inclement weather, or both, with at least two lighted headlamps that comply with paragraph (1).

(b) As used in paragraph (2) of subdivision (a), “inclement weather” is a weather condition that is either of the following:

(1) A condition that prevents a driver of a motor vehicle from clearly discerning a person or another motor vehicle on the highway from a distance of 1,000 feet.

(2) A condition requiring the windshield wipers to be in continuous use due to rain, mist, snow, fog, or other precipitation or atmospheric moisture.

SEC. 10. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.